

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 AF-08

OPIC-06 TRSE-00 /084 W

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P R 151115Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7122

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 3243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: EANES ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

REF: IR 6 879 0290 76, 141730Z MAY 76

SUMMARY: EANES ANNOUNCED HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY AND IMMEDIATELY
RECEIVED CDS BACKING. THE COMMUNISTS DECLINED TO COMMENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. EANES ANNOUNCES: IN AN IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 14,
GEN RAMALHO EANES ANNOUNCED HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY. EANES,
WHO WAS MEETING WITH OFFICERS OF THE LISBON MILITARY REGION,
TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD DELAYED HIS ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL THE
POLITICAL SITUATION CLARIFIED AND UNTIL HE CONSULTED WITH HIS
MILITARY COLLEAGUES. EANES SAID HIS CANDIDACY WOULD CONTRIBUTE
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TO THE COHESION OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND TO UNITY AND PEACE

AMONG THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. EANES SAID HE WOULD ANNOUNCE HIS CAMPAIGN PROGRAM NEXT WEEK. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT BG ROCHA VIERA WOULD BECOME ARMY CHIEF, BUT THAT ARMY VICE CHIEF FIGUEIREDO WILL SERVE AS INTERIM CHIEF UNTIL CONCLUSION OF THE CAMPAIGN (REFTEL).

2. CDS ENDORSES EANES: FOLLOWING EANES ANNOUNCEMENT, THE CDS POLITICAL COMMITTEE CONFIRMED THAT THE PARTY SUPPORT EANES'S CANDIDACY. THE CDS EXPRESSED "THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE BACKING OF THE PS, PPD, AND CDS ASSURES THE CONSENSUS OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE."

3. NO COMMENT FROM CUNHAL: ASKED FOR HIS REACTION TO EANES'S ANNOUNCEMENT, PCP LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL SAID THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD NOT COMMENT UNTIL THE CONTENDERS' PROGRAMS WERE PRESENTED.

4. OTHER CANDIDATES:

-- OTELO: MAJ OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, PRIMING THE PUMP OF "POPULAR DEMAND", MET MAY 14 WITH COOPERATIVES AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS IN SETUBAL DISTRICT.

-- COSTA GOMES: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES RECEIVED A DELEGATION HEADED BY CALDEIRA RODRIGUES, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE FELLOW-TRAVELLING MDP, WHICH URGED COSTA GOMES TO RUN, INTER ALIA, TO ASSURE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE EX-COLONIES.

-- MACEDO DE SOUSA: THE MARXIST-LENINIST PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP-ML), A MINISCULE MAOIST GROUPEL (0.29 PERCENT IN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS), NOMINATED FERNANDO MACEDO DE SOUSA, 54, A FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER WITH A STRONG ANTI-SALAZAR RECORD.
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Message Attributes

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